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71 Applicant:  
AESCULAP AG & Co. KG, 78532 Tuttlingen,  
Germany

74 Representative  
HOEGER, STELLRECHT & PARTNER  
Patent attorneys, 70182 Stuttgart

72 Inventor:  
Bernhard Kupferschmid, Dipl.-Ing.,  
Emmingen-Liptingen, 78576, Germany;  
Rupert Mayenberger, Dipl.-Ing., Rielasingen-  
Worblingen, 78239, Germany;  
Dieter Weißhaupt, Dipl.-Ing., Immendingen,  
78194, Germany

56 To determine patentability with regard to existing  
patents

DE 101 10 106 A1  
DE 94 22 450 U1  
US 54 51 227 A  
US 51 47 357 A

54 Description: Surgical instrument

57 Abstract: In order to improve a surgical instrument with a shaft, with a tool mounted on a distal end of the shaft, with a moveable actuation element mounted on the proximal end of the shaft, with a force-transfer member assigned to the actuation element to transfer tensile or compressive forces from the actuation element to the tool, and with a force-limitation device to limit a tensile or compressive force acting from the actuation element on the force-transfer member so that it is of simple design and whose individual parts may be assembled in a simple manner, it is recommended that the force-limitation device include a force-limitation element, and that the force-limitation element acts directly on the proximal end of the force-transfer member.

